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Letter, Wendell P. Garrison to Jane Grey Swisshelm [August 15, 1880]

Wendell P. Garrison

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Wendell P. Garrison to Mrs. Jane G. Wisshelm Aug. 15, 1880

[Mitchell Papers -- A.L.S.]

Orange, N. J., Aug. 15/80

Dear Madam:

I read on p. 112 of your "Half a Century:"

"The Covenanters, before it (the Federal Constitution) was adopted, denounced it as a 'Covenant with death and an agreement with hell.'"

Permit me to ask if you here wish to be taken literally, or did the Covenanters of the last century simple [simply] denounce the proposed Constitution as pro-slavery. The phrase you employ is commonly associated with my father. I had supposed this use of it original with him, and shall be obliged if you can refer me to any document in which the contrary appears. Being engaged, together with my brothers, on my father's biography, the matter has at least a curious importance for us.

Very respectfully yours,

Wendell P. Garrison